

Amendments to the Specification:

Please enter the following paragraphs at line 3 on page 11 of the specification:

Figure 6 shows a top view of the spare tire carrier of the present invention.

Figure 7 shows a front view of the spare tire carrier of the present invention with the tire removed.

Figure 8(a) shows a portion of the spare tire carrier of the present invention in the open position with the tire in a raised position.

Figure 8(b) shows a portion of the spare tire carrier of the present invention in the open position with the tire between raised and lowered positions.

Figure 8(c) shows a portion of the spare tire carrier of the present invention in the open position with the tire on the ground in a lowered position.

Please enter the following paragraphs at line 3 of page 16 of the specification:

Referring now to Figure 6, a top view of the spare tire carrier is shown. Like reference numerals are used to denote like components. As shown in this figure, tire spinner 170 extends from tire support 150 past the length of lugs 160A, 160B, and 160C.

Referring now to Figure 7, a partial front view of the spare tire carrier is shown. Like reference numerals are used to denote like components. As shown in this figure, tire spinner 170 is circular in nature and is solid for approximately two-thirds of a circle (i.e., ~ 240°) so as to meaningfully connect with the interior opening in the rim of tire 220. Tire spinner 170 may, however, may have an unbroken circumference and be made solid for up to a full circle (i.e., 360°). Tire spinner 170 made solid for a full circle is indicated by the dashed arc segments show in Figure 7. It is to be contemplated from Figure 7 that tire spinner 170 may be made solid for any portion of a full circle so long as tire spinner 170 is able to meaningfully connect with the interior opening with the interior opening of the rim of tire 220.

Referring now to Figure 8(a), the spare tire carrier is shown in the open position with tire 220 in a fully raised position above the ground (indicated by hatching). Like reference numerals are used to denote like components. Arm 100 is attached to vehicle bumper 70 by first mounting bracket 80 and pivots away from vehicle bumper 70 about a vertical axis through point 110. Arrow A1 indicates the motion of arm 100 pivoting away from vehicle bumper 70. Pivot arm 130 is parallel to arm 100. Tire support 150 rotates about the vertical axis through point 110 along with pivot arm 130 and arm 100.

Referring now to Figure 8(b), the spare tire carrier is shown in the open position as tire 220 is being moved from a fully raised position to a lowered position on the ground (indicated by hatching). Like reference numerals are used to denote like components. Pivot arm 130 is attached to arm 100 at second point 140 and pivots about a horizontal axis through second point 140. As pivot arm 130 is lowered by cable 210 attached to winch 200 pivot arm 130 rotates about second point 140 as indicated by arrow A2. Tire 220 is mounted onto the spare tire carrier by tire support 150 which is attached to pivot arm 130 at a distal end thereof such that when pivot arm 130 is lowered tire support 150 and tire 220 are also lowered towards the ground. Tire support 150 rotates about the horizontal axis through second point 140 along with pivot arm 130.

Referring now to Figure 8(c), the spare tire carrier in the open position with tire 220 in the lowered position on the ground (indicated by hatching). Like reference numerals are used to denote like components. Pivot arm 130 has been rotatedly lowered about a horizontal axis through second point 140 by cable 210. Tire 220, mounted onto the spare tire carrier by tire support 150, which is attached to pivot arm 130 at a distal end thereof, has been placed on the ground such that it can be easily removed from tire support 150.